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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,764	03/05/2002	Kenji Nakata	500.41373X00	7420

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, BA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2179

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/087,764

Applicant(s)

NAKATA ET AL.

Examiner

Ba Huynh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/5/2 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-5,x are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As for claim 1, lines 12-13: The phrase “so worked out as to” is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent application Publication 2002/0147777 (Hackbarth et al) in view of US patent #6,594,799 (Robertson et al).

- As for claim 1: Hackbarth et al teach a computer implemented method and corresponding system for conducting a desktop conference, comprising the steps/means for:

participants to gain access to the conference using communication lines (0035-0039),

participants access control (0032, 0039, 0063-0067), providing a list of conference documents to each of the participants for selection and conducting the conference using the selected document. Hackbarth fails to clearly teach that the list of documents comprises documents describing evaluation results about semiconductor device process or semiconductor manufacturing apparatus performance. However, in an analogous art of computer conference, Robertson et al teach the displaying a list of documents describing evaluation result about a semiconductor device process or semiconductor manufacturing apparatus performance for conferencing (Robertson's 6:3-36, 6:59 – 7:19; 9:50 – 10:50; 25:50 – 26:14). It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Robertson's teaching of providing a list of document describing evaluation result about a semiconductor device process or semiconductor manufacturing apparatus performance to Hackbarth's. Motivation of the combining is for the advantage of having an enriched database to further benefit participants who interest in semiconductor.

- As for claim 2: In light of the combining, the list of documents can be arranged in the order of activity steps (Robertson's 5:20-27; 10:51-54).
- As for claim 3: In light of combining, a screen is displayed responsive to user selection of a document from the list (Robertson's 9:50 – 10:50; 25:50 – 26:14). It is inherently included that the list of document and subsequence screens are displayed to the user only responsive to a successful log-in.

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- As for claim 4: A booking list is displayed to a participant if a reservation has not been made (Hackbarth's 0062-0071).
- As for claim 5: A registered conferee can be contacted by Email for information associated with the conference (0182, 0190).
- As for claim 6: Hackbarth et al teach a computer implemented method and corresponding system for conducting a desktop conference, comprising the steps/means for:

participants to gain access to the conference using communication lines (0035-0039),
participants access control (0032, 0039, 0063-0067),
providing a list of conference documents to each of the participants for selection and
conducting the conference using the selected document. Hackbarth fails to clearly
teach that the list of documents comprises documents describing evaluation results
about semiconductor device process or semiconductor manufacturing apparatus
performance. However, in an analogous art of computer conference, Robertson et al
teach the displaying a list of documents describing evaluation result about a
semiconductor device process or semiconductor manufacturing apparatus
performance for conferencing (Robertson's 6:3-36, 6:59 – 7:19; 9:50 – 10:50; 25:50 –
26:14). It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention
was made, to combine Robertson's teaching of providing a list of document
describing evaluation result about a semiconductor device process or semiconductor
manufacturing apparatus performance to Hackbarth's. Motivation of the combining
is for the advantage of having an enriched database to further benefit participants who

interest in semiconductor. A screen having a counter-participant dynamic image area, document area, and chat area is implicitly included in Hackbarth's teaching of video conference in NetMeeting and Sunforum (0039), Chat (0051), GetImage (0090, 0159, 0231). Even if it is not, providing a conference screen having a counter-participant dynamic image area, document area, and chat area is well known in the art of computer GUI for conferencing (see US patent #6,809,749, fig. 8). It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to implement a conference screen having a counter-participant dynamic image area, document area, and chat area to Hackbarth for performing the conferencing functions disclosed by Hackbarth set forth above.

- As for claim 7: The combined teaching teach the displaying a list of documents describing evaluation result about a semiconductor device process or semiconductor manufacturing apparatus performance for conferencing (Robertson's 6:3-36, 6:59 – 7:19; 9:50 – 10:50; 25:50 – 26:14). The list of document includes a hyperlink bonded thereto (6:28-32, 9:50 – 10:18, 26:5-14).
- As for claim 8: A conference document corresponding to a selected link is displayed to the participant (9:50 – 10:40; 25:50 – 26:14). Displaying the document in a separate screen from previous screen is implicitly included in Robertson's teaching of "main screen" and the subsequent screens (10:3-23).
- As for claim 9: The combined teaching includes a Chat area capable of distributing text document inputted to and preserved therein through Email (Hackbarth' 0039, 0051, 0192; Robertson's 9:3-13).

- As for claim 10: The combined teachings fail to teach the function for marking on a conference document. However Official notice is taken that implementation of marking on a conference document is well known in the art of computer conference (see US patent #6,809,749, abstract). It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the well known implementation of marking function to the combined Hackbarth&Robertson. Motivation of the combining is for the obvious advantage of highlighting and annotation benefit.
- As for claim 11: The combined teachings fail to teach the converting of speech to displayed text and vice versa. However Official notice is taken that implementation of converting of speech to displayed text and vice versa is well known in the art of computer conference (see US patent #6,343,313, 34:51-63). It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the well known implementation of converting of speech to displayed text and vice versa to the combined Hackbarth&Robertson. Motivation of the combining is for the obvious advantage of multimedia communication.
- As for claim 12: Per Hackbarth, the conference system includes a function for preserving contents of the speech of participant as speech data (0021, 0038-0039, 0051).
- As for claim 13: Per Hackbarth, the conference system includes a function for recording and reproducing the contents of a conference (0284, 0291. See also US patent 6,343,313 for this well known limitation).

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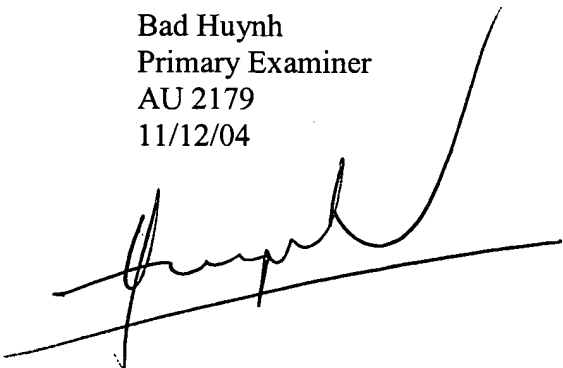
- As for claim 14: Per Hackbarth, the conference system includes a function for charging a fee (0020, 0039, 0051). Billing according to usage fee appears implicitly included in Hackbarth's teaching of usage-based billing. Even if it is not billing according to usage time is well known in marketing and the implementation would have been an obvious marketing method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bad Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4138. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Bad Huynh
Primary Examiner
AU 2179
11/12/04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bad Huynh', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.